

The opening chapters in the text deal with general problems, such as the response of the body to injury, infection, and operation, and the reviewer feels that there is a certain redundancy in the coverage. Kinney and Moore's superb chapter on "Surgical Metabolism in Metabolism of Body Fluids" has been taken directly from Bland's recent text on "Clinical Metabolism of Body Water and Electrolytes," and had it been expanded a bit, two chapters, "The Metabolic Response to Injury" and "Nutrition in Surgery" could have been omitted.

Chapters of particular interest to the general surgeon are very well done on the gastro-intestinal tract, the liver, biliary tract, pancreas and endocrine glands. The normal and abnormal physiology of these organs, along with the meaning and significance of the seeming myriads of new clinical tests available are for the most clearly described.

The editors have been careful to include chapters of interest in the subspecialties as well. Thomas Baffes "Surgery of the Newborn" is excellently written. Six or seven chapters are devoted to the lungs and cardiovascular surgery. The kidneys, lower urinary tract, and male genital tract each have a separate chapter. Alex Tulskey has contributed a chapter on "The Uterus and Ovaries," and the final chapter is devoted to the central nervous system. Rather surprisingly, there is no chapter on bone and joint physiology for the orthopedist, though a physical medicine chapter is included in the biomechanics of the peripheral motor system.

Two chapters on pain and anesthesiology are covered in the text, and certain specialized topics like "Transplantation of Tissue," "Plasma Proteins," and "The Blood and Blood Forming Organs" in which many outstanding recent advances have been made are presented in a most lucid series of chapters.

The authors in the text are all authorities on their respective subjects, and it is to their credit that each subject has been treated quite objectively, for the most part, with little intrusion of personal bias. Rarely are statements made which contradict those presented in other chapters, and one is never left with the feeling that an entire subject has been presented arbitrarily. The second edition of "Physiologic Principles of Surgery" should make a valuable edition to a surgeon's library.

FREDRICK W. MARX, JR., M.D.

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**NARCOTICS**—Edited by Daniel M. Wilner, Ph.D., Professor of Public Health, and Gene G. Kasselbaum, Ph.D., Associate Research Sociologist, both School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles. McGraw-Hill Book Company (Blakiston Division), New York, 1965. 302 pages, \$3.50.

The book represents a compilation of papers presented at a National narcotics conference at U.C.L.A. in April 1963.

Numerous knowledgeable individuals present various facets of the problem including a report on the rehabilitation program in California.

This represents one of the largest programs to date and results so far justify cautious optimism. Many of the authors of the papers presented similar material at the White House Conference, and one is certainly unimpressed with the infallibility of experts.

The same evidence may be used to draw astonishingly divergent conclusions. One is somewhat bewildered by the inability to differentiate between the treatment and perpetuation of addiction. A report of research on efforts to produce a pain-relieving drug which is not also euphoric is somewhat encouraging.

For those who view addiction with equanimity and are preoccupied with the merits of the English system, the Hong Kong article is of interest.

Approximately one out of every eight adult males in Hong Kong is a drug addict. It is unfortunate that this ideal situation for research in the problem is not utilized with funds from the United Nations or World Health Organization.

The problem in the United States while serious enough to the friends and relatives and to the addict himself is relatively minor compared to the problem of alcoholism.

In summary it should be pointed out that the Editors are not promoting any particular gospel of their own, but have presented current thinking by knowledgeable people on this serious problem.

WM. F. QUINN, M.D.

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**PHYSIOLOGY OF BLOOD PLATELETS**—Recent Biochemical, Morphologic and Clinical Research—Aaron J. Marcus, M.D., Chief, Hematology Section, New York Veterans Administration Hospital; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College; Associate Visiting Physician, Second (Cornell) Medical Division, Bellevue Hospital; and Marjorie B. Zucker, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, American National Red Cross Research Laboratory (Eastern Division); Associate Professor of Pathology, New York University School of Medicine. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1965. 162 pages, \$7.00.

This text of this small volume on blood platelets occupies only 100 pages. The variable and contradictory reports on this elusive cellular particle are listed with relatively little attempt by the authors to apply value judgments or superimpose their own interpretations. The book is thus too confusing to be recommended as a quick review for readers with limited knowledge of the platelet literature.

On the other hand, it contains a remarkably up-to-date and inclusive bibliography of 44 pages, referring to English, French and German publications, which provides an invaluable starting point for a serious literature search into any aspect of the subject of platelets.

The areas covered include the biochemistry and electron microscopic anatomy of platelets; platelet factors involved in coagulation; aggregation, adhesion, clot retraction, viscous metamorphosis and hemostatic plug formation; thrombocytopathia, thrombasthenia, thrombocytopenia and von Willebrand's disease; and thrombopoiesis, platelet survival and platelet transfusions.

This book belongs in every hematology reference library.

HERBERT A. PERKINS, M.D.

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**PAIN IN THE CHEST**—William H. Wehrmacher, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C., Northwestern University Medical School, Passavant Memorial Hospital, U.S. Veterans Administration Research Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964. 403 pages, \$14.00.

This book is an excellent detailed review of many of the obscure, as well as the common, causes of chest pain. There is very little new information, but it does provide a convenient summary of a large volume of useful information on this important subject. The author emphasizes the importance of etiologic diagnosis and not just the simple determination of whether or not chest pain is due to coronary artery disease. There is considerable emphasis on the historical aspects of each entity, as well as a fine bibliography at the end of each chapter.

This volume is too verbose for medical students but should prove to be a very useful reference text for internists and general practitioners.

VARNER J. JOHNS, JR., M.D.